

2021-2022

# CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDE



Joe Paxton

Superintendent, Clay County Schools

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Clay County Staff, Students, and Community,

I am excited to announce that Clay County Schools are making plans for school to begin on August 23, 2021. Classes will be in session five days per week, Monday through Friday. We will continue to practice enhanced mitigation strategies that safeguard everyone's health. At this time, wearing a mask will be optional for staff and students. Our "Return to School Guide" provides current guidance that will help with mask wearing decisions.

Please note that this information is subject to change as additional information about the spread and prevention of COVID-19 is known. In addition, directives may evolve as they are received from Governor Jim Justice, public health officials, and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). Therefore, all West Virginia County Boards of Education must be prepared to alter their guidance to comply with any new directives to best protect student health and learning needs.

I will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide further guidance as necessary.

Clay County Schools would like to take this opportunity to thank all vested stakeholders for your continued support. We are working diligently to provide a caring, committed, and successful school year.

Respectfully,

Joe Paxton

Superintendent

Clay County Schools



Joe Paxton  
Superintendent, Clay County Schools

# CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

## In-Person Snapshot

### TRANSPORTATION

Drivers will clean and disinfect before and after all routes. Students seated using social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Seating charts will be required for contact tracing. Masks are recommended, but not mandated.



### WINDOWS & OUTDOOR SPACES

Utilize for fresh air and learning where applicable



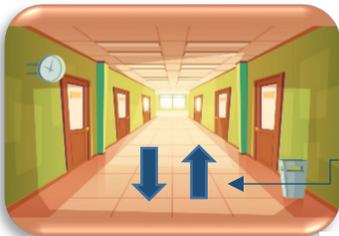
### HAND SANITIZING STATIONS

Availability throughout buildings



### PERSONAL SPACE DESK DIVIDERS

May be utilized for elementary students for better social distancing



### TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND SPACING

Maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible

### HAND WASHING

Teach appropriate techniques and promote frequent hand washing



### CARE ROOM

Available for individuals displaying symptoms



### WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

Replacing traditional water fountains to reduce the spread



### SOCIAL DISTANCING

Distancing to the greatest extent possible, in various areas outside of Core Groups such as hallways, cafeterias, playgrounds, gym, lockers, library, restrooms, etc.



### FACE COVERINGS

Optional for staff and students.



# CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

## SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES 2021-2022

FIRST DAY FOR 200 DAY EMPLOYEES:  
AUGUST 17, 2021

FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS K-12:  
August 23, 2021

FIRST DAY FOR PRE-K STUDENTS  
September 7, 2021

LABOR DAY, NO SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

VETERAN'S DAY, NO SCHOOL:  
NOVEMBER 11, 2021

THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO SCHOOL:  
NOVEMBER 22-26, 2021

CHRISTMAS BREAK, NO SCHOOL:  
DECEMBER 20, 2021 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, NO SCHOOL:  
JANUARY 17, 2022

SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL:  
APRIL 15-22, 2022

ELECTION DAY, NO SCHOOL:  
May 10, 2022

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS:  
May 27, 2022

MEMORIAL DAY  
MAY 30, 2022

LAST DAY FOR 200 DAY EMPLOYEES: JUNE 3, 2022

SAFETY THROUGH CARING, COMMITMENT, AND SUCCESS

# Clay County Schools Roadmap to Recovery



## Mitigation Strategies

- Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting
- Hand washing/sanitizing
- Encouraging social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- CARE Rooms in place

## Face coverings

- Required for staff and students

## Contact Tracing

- Vaccinated individuals are not quarantined when exposed unless symptomatic
- Unvaccinated individuals wearing a face covering are not quarantined when exposed, unless symptomatic, when both individuals are wearing a mask at time of exposure

## Transportation/Cafeteria

- Seating to the greatest extent possible
- Masks recommended but not mandated



# CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the guidance featured in the Clay County Schools “Return to School Guide” has been developed utilizing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health officials, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), and Governor’s Executive Orders.

It is important to note that guidance in this document is subject to change as additional information about the spread and prevention of COVID-19 is known. Directives may evolve as they are received from Governor Jim Justice, public health officials, and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). All West Virginia County Boards of Education must be prepared to alter their guidance to comply with any new directives to best safeguard student health and learning needs.

Children benefit from in-person instruction, and when mitigation is implemented and enforced, it is safe for them to do so. Heightened transmission rates experienced in communities have not been reflected within schools. In-person instruction will be fully implemented with school mitigation measures and prevention strategies in place.

## MITIGATION MEASURES AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Clay County Schools continues to monitor health conditions in our community. It continues to be critical that we all follow best health practices as outlined by medical officials.

Clay County Schools will continue to implement a variety of health and safety measures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses including:

- Face Coverings/Masks (Required for students and staff)

- Cleaning and Disinfection

- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Social Distancing to the Greatest Extent Possible

- Contact Tracing (collaboration with state and local health departments)

## PROMOTING VACCINATIONS

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well.

## MONITORING AND HANDLING OF COVID-19

- All Clay County Schools will post signage provided by the WVDE
- Educate about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Establish and enforce wellness policies to prevent the spread of disease, including:
  - Require staff to stay home if sick
  - Allow flexibility
- Establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals
- Isolate symptomatic individuals and then send them home
- Supervise symptomatic students while wearing a face covering and social distancing
- Require the symptomatic person to wear a face covering while waiting to leave
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
  - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
  - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering
  - Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering
- Utilize Symptom Screening Checklist for students
- Anyone who provides direct patient care is required to wear PPE and perform appropriate hand hygiene
- Clean/disinfect after symptomatic person is removed from school
- Symptomatic students must be picked up by parent/guardian or designee
- Staff should make transportation arrangements on individual basis
- Notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff
- Ensure that if a person with COVID-19 was in the school setting while infectious, school administrators coordinate with local health officials to notify staff and families immediately while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws

## QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

<p><b>Option 1</b>- Quarantine period can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring</p>	<p>Day 0-10 quarantine for close contacts can end if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring without testing. If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact the local health department to report change.</p>
<p><b>Option 2</b>- Quarantine period can end after Day 7 if someone tests negative (PCR or antigen test) and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring</p>	<p>Day 0-7 quarantine for close contact can end if COVID-19 test is negative and if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring. Self-monitoring and mask wearing should be continuous. If symptoms develop, immediately isolate and contact the local health department to report change.</p>

## PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



- Accommodate students with special health care needs and follow care plans
- Obtain well-child checks for Pre-K, K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for school nurse review
- Accommodate medically fragile students
- Update all emergency contacts and health records for students on WVEIS
- Use distance learning for students that have been medically identified unable to attend in-person classes
- Provide PPE and disinfecting supplies to staff and students presenting with symptoms
- Follow recommended health care policies and procedures

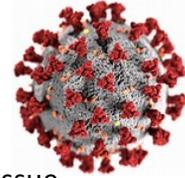
## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS



- Clay County Schools will utilize their Crisis Response Team
  - Provide mental health support through Project Aware
  - Provide professional support through school counselors, school psychologists, and school nurses
  - Provide continuous supportive relationships for students
- 
- Provide social-emotional standards as adopted by the WVCCR for student success
  - Promote a safe and welcoming environment where students can connect with caring adults
  - Provide resource mapping when necessary/available
  - Utilize school counselors/psychologists to focus on social and emotional well-being
  - Continue to utilize referral system for students who need targeted social and emotional support
  - Work with existing community agencies to provide additional mental health services
  - Identify At-Risk students
  - Communicate with stakeholders
  - Discipline policies should reflect a trauma-informed approach
  - Implement support
  - Provide staff with professional development

## CLEANING AND HYGIENE

- Students and staff will be provided with supplies for healthy hygiene. Soap dispensers and hand sanitizing dispensers are installed in schools
- Students will be taught proper hand washing/sanitizing procedure
  - School nurses will utilize hand washing video for elementary students
- Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout schools
- Hand sanitizer use will be monitored
- Soap and water will be utilized first
- Handwashing will be reinforced throughout the day
- Custodians will monitor supplies and refill when necessary
- Encourage staff/students to cough, sneeze into elbows or use tissue
- Dispose of tissues immediately and wash hands/sanitize
- Clean/disinfect high touch areas frequently
- Establish custodial schedule for frequent cleaning and disinfecting
- Disinfect shared objects
- Paper-based materials are not considered high-risk for COVID-19 transmission and do not require additional cleaning/disinfecting
- Properly store cleaning/disinfecting supplies
- Separate student's personal belongings
- Limit and/or eliminate use of shared classroom supplies and personal items
- Create/use student specific classroom supplies
- Utilize existing cleaning products to reduce allergies if effective against COVID-19
- Remove soft items from classrooms that cannot be disinfected



Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.



## GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR CUSTODIAL STAFF

- Refrain from touching face while cleaning
- Wash hands after cleaning
- Wear gloves when cleaning
- Wash hands after removing gloves
- Use disinfectants as per required recommendations



## SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE



- Current cafeteria capacity is up to 100%
  - Social distancing will be utilized to the greatest extent possible
  - Increased cleaning and sanitizing
  - Coordinate food service operations with teachers
  - Use disinfectants that meet CDC requirements
  - Sanitize/clean between meals or groups
  - Sanitize/clean kitchen frequently
  - Discard any single-use food items left after meal service by students
  - Water dispenser levers need cleaned/sanitized frequently
  - Hand washing is required before meal service
- Utilize existing physical barriers during meal service in cafeterias
  - Provide hand sanitizing stations in cafeterias
  - Utilize outdoor space for meal service as practical and appropriate



## TRANSPORTATION

- Buses will be cleaned/sanitized before and after all routes
- Students will be seated using social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Buses will be cleaned regularly
- Dispose of cleaning supplies or laundry after each use
- Bus doors/windows will be open during cleaning process and absent of students
- All specialized student adaptive equipment will be cleaned/sanitized
- Proper use of cleaning/sanitizing supplies will be implemented
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on buses
- All bus drivers will be required to have seating charts
- Face coverings on buses are recommended, but not mandated while in transport
- Open windows if feasible
- Have a designated area on bus if student displays COVID-19 symptoms



## COMMUNICATIONS

- Clay County Schools will continue with reliable communications through the following means
  - Robocalls from “Sarah the School Messenger”
  - School website [claycountyschools.org](http://claycountyschools.org)
  - Live Grades
  - E-mail
  - Text
  - Phone calls
  - Newsletters
  - Social Media
  - Online communications
  - Electronic communications



## RESOURCES



- [claycountyschools.org](http://claycountyschools.org)
- [wvde.us/covid19](http://wvde.us/covid19)
- [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- [www.wvde.us](http://www.wvde.us)
- [www.wvssac.org](http://www.wvssac.org)

